

## August 2018 Update

### **Project Coordination**

The Project Coordinator Charles Triggs is in regular contact with individual site coordinators, to obtain updates on current and expected recruitment. Sites are providing Data Collection Forms on time and the database is continually updated. The Project coordinator is willing to assist sites in any way to support recruitment and sampling.

### **Recruitment**

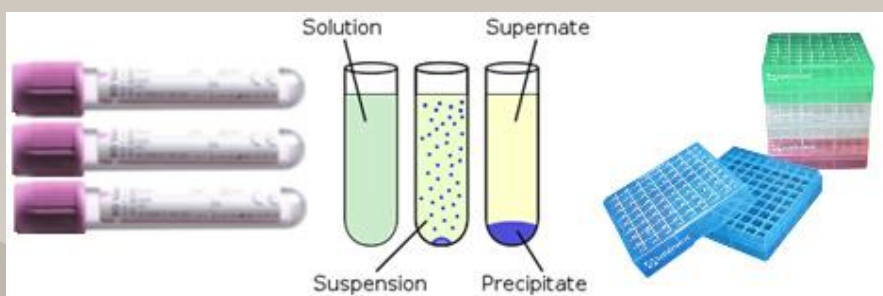
The Menzies project team recently travelled to Alice Springs to assist the site coordinator in carrying out the sampling process for five recruited patients in one sitting. Thanks to the hard work of all staff involved all five participants were successfully and completely sampled.

All sites are now recruiting kidney transplant patients - 29 participants have been recruited to date. This number is nearly halfway to the proposed total of 80 participants. There has been mostly even recruitment of Indigenous and non-Indigenous participants, as per the project protocol. Recruitment will continue until the end of the year with the intent to reach a suitable number of participants and conclude testing next year and before the project completion date.

### **Testing**

Initial testing has been carried out at Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital. The first batch of samples collected at Royal Darwin Hospital was sent to RBWH in May with the results of testing provided to the project team. Results were complete aside from two instances of insufficient volumes of biological samples (saliva). Mechanisms to increase saliva in the samples are being considered.

Remaining testing will be completed once a larger order of samples is collected in order to save on freighting costs.



## The project and team

### **The Project**

Aboriginal Australians experience worse graft and patient outcomes following kidney transplantation compared with Caucasian Australians. Drug metabolism differences have been found between racial groups, meaning different doses are required for each group. Data suggests that immunosuppressant drug metabolism might be different in Aboriginal patients. Are we over suppressing their immune systems?

This project aims to investigate whether differences exist in the way Aboriginal and Caucasian kidney transplant recipients process immunosuppressant medications and if genetics plays a role.

### **Project Team**

The project is multi-site collaboration between Central Northern Adelaide Renal, Fiona Stanley Hospital and NT Renal Services at Alice Springs and Royal Darwin Hospitals. The project team is led by Dr Katherine Barraclough, a Consultant Nephrologist at the Royal Melbourne Hospital. The study is project managed by Menzies Renal Team of Gillian Gorham and Charles Triggs.

### **Key Contact:**

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